

# STATE OF NEW YORK

## LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, N.Y., JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2015, A.D.

*I Hereby Certify, that at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County, held in the County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015, A.D. a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

**WHEREAS, Suzanne Howe Blazak** was a longtime resident of Elma, having moved to the town in the 1950s after marrying her husband, Alfred John Blazak, on Nov. 26, 1949, and;

**WHEREAS, Suzanne Howe Blazak** worked as a school secretary in the East Aurora and Iroquois school districts for many years before retiring in 1990, and;

**WHEREAS, Suzanne Howe Blazak** was a devoted member of the Abigail Fillmore Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Elma Historical Society, and;

**WHEREAS, Suzanne Howe Blazak's** patriotism and love of the American flag inspired her portrayal of Betsy Ross at countless school classrooms and civic functions, teaching proper care of the flag, and;

**WHEREAS, Suzanne Howe Blazak** placed God and the country as important aspects in her life, and was an active member of Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church in Elma for many years, serving as a lector and greeter, as well as a member of the Ladies Sodality, Mary's Blue Army, and helping at the church's annual picnic and dinner, and;

**WHEREAS, Suzanne Howe Blazak's** strong devotion to both her religion and country served as motivation when a lawsuit was filed against the government to have the words, "In God We Trust," removed from United States currency and Mrs. Blazak set out on a campaign to save this time-honored tradition, and;

**WHEREAS, Suzanne Howe Blazak** gathered more than 112,000 signatures on a petition urging Congress to take action to ensure that "In God We Trust" would be inscribed on U.S. currency, bearing witness to future generations the Christian roots of our country, and;

**WHEREAS Suzanne Howe Blazak's** efforts were rewarded when Congressman Jack Kemp presented Mrs. Blazak's petition and signatures to the Congressional Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs and later the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which rejected the lawsuit, and;

**WHEREAS Suzanne Howe Blazak's** life was an inspiration and ignited a patriotic spark in anyone who was blessed to know her.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to recognize the life of **Suzanne Howe Blazak** and her devotion to the American flag and tireless efforts to keep, "In God We Trust," on U.S. currency.

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Joseph C. Lorigo  
Majority Leader  
Erie County Legislator -10<sup>th</sup> District

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Karen M. McCarthy  
Clerk of the Legislature